Since 2011, with the support of the U.S. Department of State, and in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, the U.S. Forest Service International Programs has been investing in capacity building for wood identification of Central American Woods. The *Identification of Central American Woods* manual, developed by the U.S. Forest Service, provided the basis for more than 10 technical trainings provided by wood identification specialists from the Laboratory.

The trainings have provided key capacity building to government enforcement agents and forestry specialists in how to properly identify common illegally traded species. Throughout these trainings the issue of the deforestation and trade of rosewood and the difficulty in properly identifying it continued to emerge time after time. This program is addressing this need and bringing more attention to the conservation and management of rosewood.

Under the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) Environmental Cooperation Program and with funding from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Forest Service developed a wood identification manual, *Identification of Central American Woods*, that serves as a tool for customs inspectors and other officials to understand and control the movement of timber and wood products in and out of Central American countries. The U.S. Forest Service has used the manual to provide on-going wood identification trainings for customs officials and various local actors in all of the CAFTA-DR countries. The U.S. Forest Service has also collaborated with the Department of State and the Honduran government to reduce illegal logging, strengthen their forest management agencies, and develop a more robust forest monitoring system.

Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is implementing a program focused on specifically targeting the reduction of the illegal harvesting, processing and trade of rosewood in CAFTA-DR countries. This work will build on previous work on mahogany conservation, further increasing capacity in the CAFTA-DR countries to address forest governance and improve enforcement of national environmental laws and implementation of international treaties, such as CITES.

This program will contribute to the reduction of illegal logging of rosewood through the facilitation of discussions and workshops with actors involved in combating illegal logging in CAFTA-DR countries, gathering region-wide information on the population and ecology of rosewood, supporting information exchange on existing systems and programs to sustainably manage rosewood throughout the region, and providing trainings to CAFTA-DR officials in the identification of rosewood and other most common illegally traded wood species. The U.S. Forest Service will continue to support the creation and dissemination of materials about rosewood for management and enforcement agencies through the region.